

FINANCE

THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

Fixed assets

	2007 €	2006 €
Tangible assets	12,356,822	9,365,564
Current Assets		
Stocks	24,000	-
Debtors	1,242,851	765,177
Investments	50,000	-
Cash at bank and in hand	5,272,074	5,773,548
	6,588,925	6,538,725
Creditors		
amounts falling due within 1 year	1,076,200	520,003
Net Current assets	5,512,725	6,018,722
Total assets less liabilities	17,869,547	15,384,286

Capital and reserves

Revenue reserves	3,239,056	3,263,610
Other reserves	14,630,491	12,120,676
	17,869,547	15,384,286

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

Care services	9,629,450	0.70
Management and central services	1,202,000	0.09
Branch administration and regional development	2,423,995	0.18
Fundraising	261,154	0.02
Information and education	177,975	0.01
	13,694,574	1.00

SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

Schedule 1: Operating Income

	2007
Carer Contributions	908,178
Bank Interest	135,063
Donations & Subscriptions	1,043,991
Fund Raising Events	1,351,562
Misc Receipts	339,729
Other Grants	275,642
Tea Day	426,390
Health Board Grant	9,189,465
Total Income	13,670,020



REFLECTIONS ON THE TWENTY FIVE YEARS BY FOUNDING MEMBER WINIFRED BLIGH



Winifred Bligh

At a packed meeting, in a hall provided by the St. John of God's Hospital in Stillorgan, Co Dublin, and with the vital support of the Gay Byrne radio show, carers Winifred Bligh and Imelda Gillespie established the Alzheimer Society of Ireland in December 1982. Having a sister and a husband respectively

diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, the two determined women found out the hard way that information, support and facilities for families with a diagnosis of dementia were non-existent.

Although they had neither funding nor a premises, the women set about changing the dementia care landscape of Ireland forever. Over the next 25 years the organisation they established would become the leading national provider of dementia-specific supports and services, garnering significant political, medical and media support for the cause. Gillespie was later to retire from The Society in 1985 when she emigrated to Canada but Bligh continues as a member of the Board of Directors and an active volunteer. Recalling the development of the organisation in conversation with Margaret Downes, Bligh reflects...

Feelings of isolation and abandonment were common in '82 for families unable to access even the most basic information about Alzheimer's disease and how to provide family care. The Society contacted other countries to see what sort of facilities, information and care services they provided and received significant information from the US where services for both families and those with the condition appeared to be the most advanced.

At the time, the only statistics available indicated there were 480 primary and secondary cases of Alzheimer's. Within a year of lobbying for better statistical reporting, these figures had been revised upwards to 850 cases. Current statistics indicate there are 38,000 people with dementia in Ireland and this figure is expected to reach 103,998 by 2036.

The early aim of the Society was to offer information, understanding and solidarity to those caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease. From initial contacts with families throughout Ireland, we recognised the need for community

back-up - to reach out to families where the impact of the disease was enormous and to educate society in general, not just those immediately affected by the condition. Central to achieving this were public information meetings which we held all around the country with the support of the medical community. These meetings were the inspiration for the establishment of many of the branch networks that were subsequently formed and they also facilitated the Society to attract supporters and funders such as the Masonic Order who held their Festival of Charity for The Society with the support of Eric Waller who went on to become the Grand Master of the Order, the Knights of Columbanus, Kelloggs and Ladbrokes.

One of the Society's most important roles was and is to give families a break and in order to do this we needed to provide a place where those with the condition could be cared for during the day. The first Alzheimer Day Care Centre was opened in Sandymount in premises donated by the Red Cross Society and was managed by two retired nurses. The huge demand for places made it abundantly clear that there was a need for much bigger premises and The Daughters of Charity in Blackrock donated facilities for a new day care centre.

A natural progression of the day care services was the development of respite services and the Blackrock centre opened an eight bed respite unit. I took up the post of National Co-Coordinator of Caring Services in 1992 to manage it. In 2005, the same Daughters of Charity donated land for a new purposed-built facility comprising a day care and respite centre and housing the national offices.

By 1989 The Society moved into permanent offices provided by the St. John of God's Hospital and huge support for its work was given by Eithne Grealy, a nursing sister at the hospital who facilitated the support group there. Today there are 31 Day Care Centres, 20 Home Care/Support Services, 28 Carer Support Groups, Social Clubs and the overnight Respite Centre.

While the Society primarily addressed itself with providing information and support we always saw the issue of Alzheimer's disease and dementia as a political. From its very first days, the Society always tried to exert pressure upon the community at large and their public representatives, especially the Government of the day, to take responsibility for the care of people with dementia and their carers. This remains the case and the Dementia Manifesto, launched in February calls on the Government to recognise and designate dementia as a national health priority. We want Government to support enhanced and flexible community based services; support early diagnosis, intervention, awareness and education; and advance medical and social research. The Manifesto will cost the Government 105 million to implement over the next three years but by working together with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland it can achieve the vision that Imelda and I held when we embarked on our journey in 1982 - to achieve a world where stigma of the person with dementia and their carers is challenged and overcome and where those who live with dementia and their carers have all they need to live happy and fulfilling lives.



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 THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND



PROVISION OF SERVICES

Eastern Region

In Wicklow, Day Care services relocated to Nolan House in Rathdrum from Avoca. The Curlew Road Branch celebrated its 10th anniversary. South Dublin Branch, Emma Lester and Aimee Finn braved the elements on Christmas Day to participate in a sponsored swim. On November 7th, the North Dublin Branch members and staff were joined by Senator Ivor Callely, Chairman, Niall Tierney and founding member Winifred Bligh for the official opening of the Cairdeas Day Care Centre in St Joseph's Hospital Raheny. The Society has been providing Day Care services in Raheny in Sybill Hill or 16 years.

West and North West Region

The Donegal Branch celebrated its 25th anniversary in style with a boat trip for all past carers. Ray Keane, Regional Manager retired. Ray contributed greatly to the services in the region. Jane Howlett took over as Regional Manager. A new home care service commenced in North Tipperary. Minister for Older People Maire Hocht attended a fundraiser for the Society in Carrigatoher, Nenagh which raised €12,000. In Limerick, GE CAS employees raised €22,000 in a walkathon in aid of the renovation project for the Respite centre at Waterman's Lodge.

Southern Region

A new outreach day care centre opened in Bandon for one day per week. In Cork, Bessboro day care centre opened for 5 days per week. Caroline Kilty was appointed Nurse/Activities Co-ordinator for the centre. The Soroptimist international Cork presented €28,000 to Cork City Branch. The Gaultier Guild of the ICA donated €2,000 to the Waterford Branch. A new initiative by our services manager in Waterford, Andrea Lloyd, has resulted in the development of a life story book for people with dementia and their families and carers. The original Wren Boys raised 1,900 for the West Waterford branch of ASI on St Stephen's Day. North Cork Branch/



SUMMARY REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES - 2007

2007 has been a significant year for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, marking 25 years since founders Winifred Bligh and Imelda Gillespie set out as pioneers in the field of dementia care in Ireland. Over the intervening years, much has changed in Ireland's political, economic, health and social landscape. However, not enough has happened to reduce the physical, emotional and financial impact on individuals and families living with dementia. Social isolation, financial strain and inadequate support services were highlighted as major issues for carers in our 2007 Carer Survey.

Growth, innovation and challenge have featured strongly again this year. In total there are 94 services spread across the country, comprising; day care, home care, overnight respite and support group services; plus innovative pilot programmes such as social clubs, advocacy service, and telecare programme. And of course our national helpline services offers information and a listening ear to those impacted upon by Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Operational funding continues to be a major challenge, with 30% of service costs – or 3.5 million annually – required from voluntary contributions through the efforts of our branches, volunteers, staff and supporters. The Dementia Manifesto 2007-2009 sets out a three-year strategy for government and policy makers. Our Seanad Nominee, Sen Tony Kett, will play an integral part in our campaign to role-out the manifesto and to have dementia recognised as a National Health Priority. Negotiating a 'fair deal' for people with dementia needing nursing home care is a key concern going forward and we will continue to lobby the Minister for Health & Children, the Minister for Older People and all political representatives to ensure that the distinct needs of our constituency are represented.

Active volunteerism was and will continue to be core to the Alzheimer Society. The Society would like to pay tribute to all those who, during 2007 and throughout our 25 year history, have given generously of their time, energy and expertise in a myriad of ways – as board members on branch committees, in centres/support groups, on our helpline, for project/administrative work and of course raising funds to keep us going. The Society would also like to acknowledge the contribution of our celebrity supporters, corporate sponsors, private donors and all our supporters.

This report provides a summary overview and highlights of our work in 2007 under the three strategic priorities of our current strategic plan.

South Tipperary - A successful 'Biking across the Border' joint fundraising event was held in aid of local ASI care services.



INVESTING IN OUR HUMAN CAPITAL

Northeast & Longford and Westmeath Region

Longford Branch has opened a new day care centre on Saturdays. The Birches day care centre in Dundalk was the happy recipient of €5,500 from Dundalk Raft Race competition. The branch is now operating at full capacity. The Louth home care project has been extended from North Louth to cover the entire county. A day care service has been established in Oldcastle with plans to extend the services and set up a support group. A new Saturday care service has been set up in Navan. In Monaghan the Drumkill day care centre has increased their service to 2 days per week.

South East, Offaly/Laois Region

Tullamore Killoughey Foroige raised €10,600 for the Society in the 11k bed push. Margaret Maher has been appointed Home Care co-ordinator for Offaly. The HSE provided extra funding to employ additional staff to provide day, evening and weekend service in Portlaoise. The Portlaoise office has been moved to new premises in the old parochial house and the grant from the HSE to furnish and update the new office was gratefully received. In Wexford, a new day care service on Sautrdays has been set up. This is in addition to the Saturday service in Enniscorthy. Successful negotiation for additional funding from HSE has enabled new or additional services to be established in Carlo, South Tipperary, Wexford and Kilkenny.

Service Statistics

The Society provided 723,264 care hours in 2007; 395,878 day care hours, 290,258 homecare hours, 33,384 respite hours and 3,744 advocacy & case management hours. The total number of clients served was 3,017. There were 3,295 helpline and information requests. 70 clients under 65 years of age at 31 December 2007 and 623 clients on our waiting list as at 31 December 2009.



Staff and volunteers are core to the work that we do. The organisation's workforce grew again in 2007 with approx. 800 people employed. There were 103 new employees in 2007. Of all the employees the majority were part time with approx. only 100 full time. The working hours varying from 10 to 39 hours per week. There are upwards of 300 people who volunteer their time, energy and expertise in all sorts of different ways in the organisation. Work commenced on developing a number of additional HR Policies and Procedures. Managing conflict training was delivered nationally for all line managers in the Society.

The Society recognises the importance of engaging in staff and volunteer development through ongoing education and training. During 2007 there was an increase in the number of sessions delivered to staff and volunteers of the Society and to external organisations.

During 2007 a total of 55 ASI care staff commenced training to acquire FETAC level 5 accredited training in Health Service Skills. This Health Service Executive Skill Project initiative, aimed at facilitating greater skill acquisition for staff working in the health services was undertaken in cooperation with the Disability Federation of Ireland. As requested by DFI the training manager joined the steering group to oversee the provision of training for DFI member organisations and contributed to the DFI sector review of training which was submitted to the Health Service Executive.

In 2007 ASI staff and volunteers continued to undertake training as part of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland training network. Some line managers availed of general management training and also availed of sessions in fundraising techniques, developing media relationships, running support groups and some sessions on the impact of neurological conditions on families.

Training sessions were provided for external health care professionals in a number of nursing homes and we were requested to provide further sessions on dementia care issues for staff of Clonskeagh Hospital, Dublin. As part of the Society's ongoing ADI Twinning Programme with the Greek Association of Alzheimer's Disease we were involved in sharing information on ASI services and training programmes in visits to centres in Greece and a presentation to the Hellenic Alzheimer Society Conference in Thessaloniki in February.

PROVIDING INFORMATION, CREATING AWARENESS AND ADDRESSING STIGMA

The strategic priority of providing information, creating awareness and addressing stigma embraces a significant amount of the work of the Alzheimer Society. Raising awareness and understanding about dementia and the challenges faced by individuals and families living with the condition is central to the work. As part of our ongoing work to increase public understanding of the daily challenges faced by family carers, a Carer Survey was conducted and the findings released nationally this was supported by Lundbeck Ltd.

The National Helpline Service handled 3,295 requests including calls, emails and general requests. This represents a 13% reduction from 2006 when the Society was involved in an intensive early signs and symptoms awareness campaign. The service has returned to pre-campaign levels and this is also reflected in the type of person contacting the service, 32% are worried about dementia and wanted information about (in descending order) early signs and symptoms and how a diagnosis is made, this category represented over 50% of service users in 2006. 49% of service users were people who are living with dementia and needed information about (in descending order) dementia, the Society and other support services or to discuss a particular issue such as changes in behaviour, family decision making or legal planning. 12% of service users are professionals or students and 7% of calls were from unknown sources.

The public affairs and political advocacy work of the Society continued to grow and focus on the general election of June. The Dementia Manifesto 2007-2009: Making Dementia a National Health Priority, launched by Dublin's Lord Mayor in February, set out a three year strategy for government and formed the cornerstone of The Society's general election campaign. The Society was approved as a nominating body for Seanad Eireann elections and nominee Tony Kett was successfully elected to the Administrative Panel.

To coincide with World Alzheimer's Day, on 21 September, the Society held the 11th ASI National Conference in the Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel in Dublin. Themed "Towards a Voice: 25 Years of Dementia Care and Advocacy (1982-2007)", the conference was opened by the first Minister for Older People, Maire Hocht T.D., and attended by staff, volunteers, family carers and allied healthcare professionals.

Through representation at national, European and international levels and networking with partners and external agencies, the Society ensures that the voice of the person with dementia, their carer and family members

continues to be heard as well as being able to influence policy and practice in dementia care. Among those we work with include Alzheimer Europe, Alzheimer's Disease International, Health Service Executive, Dementia Services Information and Development Centre, Medical Charities Group, Neurological Alliance of Ireland, Disability Federation of Ireland, the Ageing Well Network, Health Information and Quality Authority and the HSE Expert Advisory Group concerned with services for older people.

A two-year research initiative – Telecare Project - to investigate the benefits of technology in the home was rolled out in Dublin and Wicklow in partnership with Emergency Response and funded by Pobal.



Fundraising continues to play a significant role in the overall Society's objectives. This year over €3.9 million was raised. This was the result of the hard work and good will of our many supporters and volunteers. Their generosity of spirit, which was apparent in the many hundreds of fundraising events organised throughout the country, is very much appreciated by us all. Concerts, Table Quizzes, Raffles as well as the Ladies Mini Marathon all helped us reach our targets.

2007 saw our 13th Tea Day take place throughout the country and our final tally was an impressive €426,000.

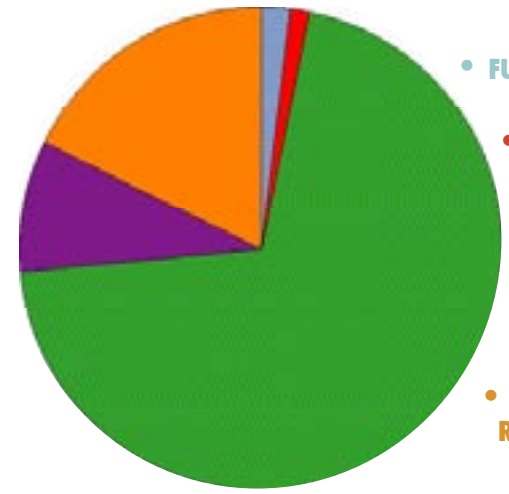
There was sun and fun supporting RTE Weather Presenter Nuala Carey who raised €41,178 for the Society singing on Charity Your'e A Star. The inaugural ASI Gala Ball was held in the Shelbourne Hotel raised almost €100,000 in aid of the Orchard Day and Respite Centre in Blackrock.

Sponsors

Elan, IBI Corporate Finance, Icon Plc, Bank of Scotland, United Drug, Arthur Cox, NTR, Shire, TP Robinson, Lewis Hohn Williams, Pfizer, Irish Life, First Impressions, Invacare, Niall McLoughlin, Oracle.



EXPENDITURE



INCOME

